

**REMARKS****INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 38, 75, 80 and 81 have been amended, and new claims 84 and 85 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-36, 38, 39, 41-55, 57-73, 75, 77-78, 80, 81, 82 and 83-85 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:**

A. In the Office Action, at pages 2-9, numbered paragraph 4, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-36, 38, 39, 41-55, 57-73, 75, 77-78, 80 and 81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Norihiko (JP Publication Number 11-242545; hereafter, "Norihiko") in view of Nishimoto et al. (hereafter, "Nishimoto"; Japanese Patent Document No. H10-69482). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 38, 75, 80 and 81 have been amended. In amended claims 1, 38, 75 and 80 of the present invention, the degree of importance of the keyword stored in the memory is raised by the importance determiner unit in response to the positive detection of an occurrence of a transmitted message which has been prepared in the apparatus in response to the received message containing the keyword (see FIG. 3, Operations 220-224), and the degree of importance of the keyword can be lowered in accordance with time in the absence of an occurrence of such a transmitted message. As shown in FIG. 3, Operations 206-214, the degree of importance of the keyword can be lowered in response to the detection of an occurrence of a received message from another apparatus in response to the previous received message containing the keyword.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Norihiko nor Nishimoto teaches or suggests the claims of the present invention as amended, e.g., as stated in amended claim 1, a message transmitting and receiving apparatus comprising: a memory, storing keywords associated with said apparatus and degrees of importance of said keywords; a detector, detecting an occurrence of a transmitted or received message; an extractor, in response to the detection of an occurrence of a received message, extracting a keyword from said received message; importance determiner unit, determining dynamically a degree of importance of said extracted keyword and

updating said keywords and said degrees of importance in said memory, wherein the degree of importance of the keywords changes in accordance with time, said importance determiner unit raises the degree of importance of the keyword stored in said memory, in response to the detection of an occurrence of a transmitted message which has been prepared in said apparatus in response to the received message containing the keyword, and said importance determiner unit is capable of causing the degree of importance of the keyword to be lowered in accordance with time in the absence of an occurrence of such a transmitted message; an indicator, providing an indication of the occurrence of said extracted keyword within said received message in accordance with the determined degree of importance of said extracted keyword. Amended independent claims 38, 75, and 80 recite the invention in similar fashion.

That is, the present claimed invention recites a more complex apparatus and method than that of Norihiko and/or Nishimoto in that the present invention utilizes a system of detecting an occurrence of a transmitted or received message; extracting, in response to the detection of an occurrence of a received message, a keyword from said received message; dynamically determining a degree of importance of said extracted keyword to update keywords associated with said apparatus and degrees of importance of the keywords stored in said memory, wherein the degree of importance of the keywords changes in accordance with time, the degree of importance of the keyword stored in said memory is raised in response to an occurrence of a transmitted message which has been prepared in said apparatus in response to the received message containing the keyword, and the degree of importance of the keyword can be lowered in accordance with time in the absence of an occurrence of such a transmitted message; and providing the indication of the occurrence of said extracted keyword within said received message in accordance with the determined degree of importance of said extracted keyword, as is recited in amended claims 1, 38, 75 and 80 of the present invention.

It is important to note that the system of the present invention analyzes the received messages to determine registered keywords and candidate keywords and may execute further treatment of the two sets of keywords in accordance with separate criteria. Hence, as noted on lines 33-35 of page 9 of the specification: "It should be noted that the conditions for the registered keywords and the conditions for the candidate keywords can be set independently."

In claims 22, 23, 59 and 609, the degree of importance of the keyword is changed in accordance with the operating conditions of the apparatus operated by the user, which is neither taught nor suggested by Norihiko and Nishimoto et al. in combination.

In Nishimoto et al., the degree of importance is determined only in accordance with the frequency of a keyword, and a transmitted message produced in the instant apparatus is not

distinguished from received messages produced by other apparatuses. In contrast, in the present invention, a transmitted message is distinguished from received messages.

Thus, since neither Norihiko nor Nishimoto recites a combined registered keyword and candidate keyword system, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 38, 75 and 80 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Norihiko (JP Publication Number 11-242545) in view of Nishimoto et al. (Japanese Patent Document No. H10-69482). Since claims 2, 4-11, 13-36, 39, 41-55, 57-73, 77-78, and 81 depend from amended claims 1, 38, 75 and 80, respectively, claims 2, 4-11, 13-36, 39, 41-55, 57-73, 77-78, and 81 are submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Norihiko (JP Publication Number 11-242545) in view of Nishimoto et al. (Japanese Patent Document No. H10-69482) for at least the reasons that amended claims 1, 38, 75 and 80 are submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Norihiko (JP Publication Number 11-242545) in view of Nishimoto et al. (Japanese Patent Document No. H10-69482).

B. In the Office Action, at page 9, numbered paragraph 5, claims 82 and 83 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Norihiko (JP Publication Number 11-242545; hereafter, "Norihiko") in view of Nishimoto et al. (hereafter, "Nishimoto"; Japanese Patent Document No. H10-69482) and further in view of Payton (USPN 6,681,247 B1; hereafter, "Payton"). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Payton recites a collaborator discovery method and system for tracking and correlating user activities with respect to information resources on an electronic network to assist users in finding others with common interests, wherein the system includes a monitor for tracking user activities, an entry processor for updating and providing monitored activities to a match database, and a matcher to correlate user activities and to diffuse user interests to information resources that have not yet been visited, wherein long-term and short-term user interests are tracked, and are decayed over time for resources not recently visited and information sources whose associated interest level has sufficiently decayed are pruned, and their entries in the match database are eliminated. Payton also provides an interactive messaging system for users to interact, while preserving their anonymity. However, Payton does not recite a system of detecting an occurrence of a transmitted or received message; extracting, in response to the detection of an occurrence of a received message, a keyword from said received message; dynamically determining a degree of importance of said extracted keyword to update keywords associated with said apparatus and degrees of importance of the keywords stored in said memory, wherein the degree of importance of the keywords changes in accordance with time, the degree of importance of the keyword stored in said memory is raised in response to an occurrence of a transmitted message which has been

prepared in said apparatus in response to the received message containing the keyword, and the degree of importance of the keyword can be lowered in accordance with time in the absence of an occurrence of such a transmitted message; and providing the indication of the occurrence of said extracted keyword within said received message in accordance with the determined degree of importance of said extracted keyword, as is recited in amended claims 1 and 38 of the present invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1 and 38 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Payton (USPN 6,681,247 B1).

As noted above, amended independent claims 1 and 38 are submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Norihiko (JP Publication Number 11-242545) in view of Nishimoto et al. (Japanese Patent Document No. H10-69482). Thus, for the reasons cited above, amended claims 1 and 38 are submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Norihiko (JP Publication Number 11-242545) in view of Nishimoto et al. (Japanese Patent Document No. H10-69482) and further in view of Payton (USPN 6,681,247 B1).

Since claims 82 and 83 depend from amended claims 1 and 38, respectively, claims 82 and 83 are submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Norihiko (JP Publication Number 11-242545) in view of Nishimoto et al. (Japanese Patent Document No. H10-69482) and further in view of Payton (USPN 6,681,247 B1), alone or in combination, for at least the reasons that amended claims 1 and 38 are submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Norihiko (JP Publication Number 11-242545) in view of Nishimoto et al. (Japanese Patent Document No. H10-69482) and further in view of Payton (USPN 6,681,247 B1), alone or in combination.

#### **NEW CLAIMS:**

New claim 84 recites that the features of the present invention include, with respect to claim 1, further comprising means for deleting a keyword having a degree of importance lower than a threshold value.

Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that this new claim distinguishes over the prior art.

New claim 85 recites that the features of the present invention include, with respect to claim 38, further causing said processor to perform the deleting a keyword having a degree of importance lower than a given threshold value.

Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that this new claim distinguishes over the prior art.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding

objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

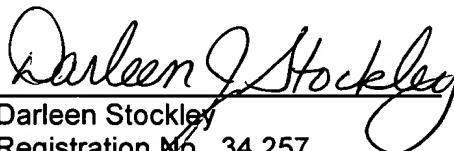
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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